

Newport



Mercury.

ESTABLISHED JUNE 12, 1733.

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Agriculture.

FOREIGN SEEDS.—As I have received and experimented on some Agricultural and Garden seeds received last winter and spring from United States Patent Office, I will now make a report of results, and hope others who have received and tried seeds will do the same.

Chinese Sugar Cane.—This plant, as its name implies, came from China, where sugar is made out of its stalks. Its seeds are small and of an exceeding rich, shining, black color. I planted my seeds on the 7th of May last, in a sandy loam, about an inch deep in the ground, in hills like Indian corn, and cultivated them like corn. The growing plant looks very much like Broom Corn, but has a richer green color, and more beautiful form, than either our Broom or Indian Corn plant. I put from six to seven seeds in a hill, and they all grew and ripened finely, making stalks from ten to eleven feet high, whose tops like Broom corn were full of seeds. And if the seeds are planted earlier, and the season more favorable than our last, dry one, the plants will, I am confident, grow from three to five feet higher. The stalks abound in a rich sugary juice, which induces cows and hogs to eat them greedily and in preference to most other kinds of food. The growing plant will also thrive under a drought that will parch and dry up our Indian corn plant—and this, in connection with its large yield, will render it a desirable fodder plant to feed and fatten horned cattle and hogs.

SALT FOR SHEEP.—The first thing the shepherd in Spain does when his flock returns from the South, the summer downs, or pastures, is to give them as much salt as they will eat. Every owner allows to each thousand sheep, 2500 lbs. of salt, which they consume in about five months. They eat none in their journeys, nor are they allowed any in winter, as it is thought to produce abortion when given to ewes forward with young. This has ever been the custom, and it is thought to be the true reason, why the Kings of Spain could never raise the price of salt to the height it has maintained in France; for it would tempt the shepherds to stunt the sheep, which it is believed would weaken their constitution and deteriorate their wool. The shepherd places fifty or sixty flat stones at the distance of about five paces apart, strews salt upon each, leads the sheep slowly among them, and every one is allowed to eat at pleasure. But when they are feeding on limestone lands, they eat no salt; and if they meet with a spot of mixed formation, they are said to partake of it in proportion as the soil is mingled with clay.

Wool Growers.

OCEAN MANURES.—We are glad to learn that our eastern friends are waking up to a consciousness of the value of fish, sea-weed, kelp etc., for manure. Thousands of farms near the coast could be rendered more fertile by the use of these cheap ocean products—many of the sea-weeds form an admirable mulch for grass lands, to be applied in the fall and the fish, when ploughed deeply under furnishes fair quantities of phosphate and nitrogenous matter. Those who place them at or near the surface, lose half their value by the escape of the nitrogenous portions into the atmosphere, beside producing disease to themselves and their animals. Many of the sea-weeds, when required as manure and for malch-ing grass lands, will improve either clayey or carbonaceous soils; the former is rendered finer by the admission of atmosphere during the decay of the sea-weed, while the resulting gases, useful to vegetation is retained by the aluminas. The inorganic portions are always in a fit condition to be used by plants.

VENTILATING HAY STACKS.—The British farmers have a method of ventilating their hay, oat and barley stacks, which we may frequently adopt with advantage; and in stacking corn stalks it would be always beneficial. They fill a large bag, say 35 feet high and 20 inches in diameter, with straw, and place it vertically in the center of the stack, putting the barley, oats or hay, which ever it may happen to be, around it. As the stack rises they lift the sack; and so on to the top. In this way there is a chimney formed in the centre of the stack or bay, in which the steam or gases generated find their way and escape readily.

FARM.—Cut food for cattle, and if corn stalks are used steam as well as cut them. Cut your roots before feeding them; provide pure water for cows. Attend well to cows which have calved, or are about to calve. See that your wood shed is filled with two years supply. Look well to your post heaps. Put fences in order. See that tools which will be required in the spring, are in order.

The feeding of green food, such as potatoes, apples &c., is strangely disregarded by a majority of American sheep growers. This is a prominent point of attention in German management; indeed it is thus in every section where fine wool-sheep are cultivated.

Miscellaneous.

From the Providence Journal.

Third Registration Report of the State of Rhode Island, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1855.

This report, prepared by Charles W. Parsons of this city, under the direction of the Secretary of State, has been completed with commendable promptness, and presented to the General Assembly at the very commencement of the session. It forms an interesting pamphlet of 92 pages and is well worthy a careful consideration, not only of the members of the General Assembly, but also of our citizens generally.

We learn from the report before us, that there has been a constant improvement in the fulness and character of the return from the commencement of our system of registration to the present time. For the year 1855 returns of some kind were received from every town in the State, and a more general interest seems to be felt in the subject by the town clerks, and by others whose duty it is to furnish the desired statistics.

The system of registration has now been in operation in the State four years and seven months, and the recapitulations given in the present report, for three years and seven months, are sufficient to give us some idea both of the importance of the system to the State, and of the results we may expect to derive from it in the process of time. It is important to bear in mind that the value of these statistics is constantly increasing as they accumulate, and also that it is very unsafe to draw conclusions from a single fact, which a series of facts of the same character would utterly destroy.

There are, however, some subjects illustrated in this report, concerning which the facts are sufficiently numerous to enable us to begin to draw conclusions. We propose to notice a few of these topics, hoping simply to excite sufficient interest in the subject, to induce others to study the report for themselves.

1. The comparative condition of the native and foreign-born population.—The population of foreign birth in 1850, composed about one-sixth of the population of the State, or 16.17 in every 100.

The results of registration, as exhibited in this report, show that the children born of foreign parents compose two-fifths, or 40.51 in each 100 of all the children born; that is, the foreign population have about two and a half times as many children born, in proportion to their numbers as the American population. The returns of marriages show that about three-tenths, or 29.97 in each 100 of all the persons married in the State are foreign birth, or nearly twice as many in proportion to their numbers as of those of American nativity.

The returns of death show that about 20 in every 100 of all the deaths are of persons of foreign birth, or about one quarter more than of those of American birth, in proportion to the number living. The whole is concisely stated in the report as follows:

Ratio of foreign to total population, 1850	Ratio of foreign to total population, 1855	Ratio of foreign to total population, 1860
16.17	20.51	20.51
Ratio of foreign to total population, 1850	40.51	40.51
Ratio of foreign to total population, 1855	40.51	40.51

The returns do not enable the author of the report to show the proportions according to percentage, except from the city of Providence. This subject is illustrated by quotations from the report of the City Registrar of Providence, and its importance will be evident to any one on reflection.

2. This report illustrates the differences between the colored and white population, from which it seems that the number of births among the colored population is in about the same proportion to their numbers, as among the whites; but the deaths of colored persons are twice as many, in proportion to the number living, as of white persons. It also seems that consumption is much more prevalent among the colored population than among the white in proportion to their numbers.

3. Influence of locality on longevity.—This subject is one of the greatest interest and importance to the State generally, and is illustrated in this report so far as is possible from the registration reports thus far received.

The average age of all who die is one item of information in connection with this subject, and we find on page 3 the following as the average of all who died in 1855 in the several counties in the State:

County	Average age
Bristol	39.58 years
Kent	41.87 "
Newport	42.49 "
Providence	38.12 "
Providence city	33.51 "
Washington	44.12 "

age was 45.61 years, or nearly twice that in Providence city.

There is one very important element in these calculations which is wanting, and which might greatly change the inference drawn from them. This is, the age of the living in the two places. It is probable that the number of children living in Providence is greater, in proportion to the whole population, than in the southern towns of Newport county, and as a large portion of those who die are children, the average of those who die in Providence will, of course, be less. There is no doubt, however, that a country life, and particularly in the salubrious climate of Newport county, is much more favorable to longevity than a city life.

4. Locality in connection with different diseases.—It must be obvious to any one who acknowledges any connection between cause and effect, that different localities will have different effects upon the human system, and will modify and change the character of the diseases which will prevail. The researches of Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, seem to show, not only that in different portions of the same State, but in different parts of the same town, the causes of diseases are different, and that localities very near each other are often subject to entirely different diseases. For example, it seems to be established by his researches in Massachusetts, that in localities on the north and north-east side of hills and slopes, particularly in the neighborhood of bodies of water, consumption is much more prevalent than in localities with a southern exposure and protected by higher land, from the north and north-west winds. It is evident that exact knowledge on this subject would be of immense importance to a community, and to individuals. Registration will in this way be of great value in tracking epidemics, and in ascertaining the local influences which cause them. Some information of this character has already been obtained from registration in this State, and though we would constantly bear in mind the necessity of numerous facts to enable conclusions on this subject, and the danger of too hasty inferences, yet, from the facts presented, we cannot but agree with the author of this report in the following remarks:

"The study of the prevalence of zymotic diseases in different places and seasons is particularly interesting, because they are believed to depend more than any other class on causes which admit of pollution or removal. In the course of years, a registration system will yield reliable practical information. We believe that we may already venture to state one general result, in regard to the adjoining towns of Bristol and Warren. In Bristol, zymotic diseases are much more fatal; in Warren, consumption is much more fatal. For proofs of this, we would refer to the tables published in the Appendix to the second report. If the fact be established, it shows that the former town is a more desirable residence for persons predisposed to consumption, while there must be some cause—some influence prevailing in the atmosphere of the thickly inhabited parts of the town;—which render zymotic diseases particularly common or particularly severe."

In connection with the healthy of disease, we find a remarkable fact in relation to amputation and paralysis, on page 62. It seems that the deaths from these diseases in 1855, were more than one to every 400 inhabitants of the town of Warren, while in the city of Providence they were less than one for every 3000.

5. Occupation in connection with disease. This subject, the importance of which is obvious, is illustrated in our Rhode Island reports much better than in any other reports we have seen. Most reports simply give the number who die of different occupations, with their average age, an item of information, when standing alone, of very little value. For example, a large number of occupations are pursued during only a portion of life, when they are abandoned for others. Such as factory operatives, students, clerks, school teachers and others. We find in the Massachusetts report for 1854, the average of students, for a series of years, to be 23.16 years; of teachers 29 years; of operatives 27.62 years, and these are compared with farmers, the average age of whom is 64 years. The object of such comparisons, if there is any, must be to show the effects of different occupations upon the length of human life; but it is evident that, standing alone, they show nothing of the kind.

In the Rhode Island reports, in addition to this information, a table is introduced showing the diseases of which persons of different occupations die.

The importance of the information derived from this table begins to be seen, and is well illustrated on page 69 of the present report. It seems from the table there given, that of all the jewellers who have died in the State during three years and seven months, 71.4 per cent died of consumption; of machinists, 52.2 per cent died of consumption; of professional men, 43.7 per cent; of shoemakers, 40 per cent; of carpenters, 37.5 per cent; while of all the farmers who died, only 16.7 per cent died of consumption.

Now, as the predisposition to consumption is, to a great extent, hereditary, and may be foreknown, this information is highly important to young men choosing an occupation.

But space will not permit a longer notice of this interesting report. It is one which does great credit to the author and to the State. All reports upon this subject must be, in some degree, similar to each other, and the valuable reports published by the neighboring State of Massachusetts, after the plan of the reports of the Registrar General of England, have served as the model for similar reports in other States. We are pleased to notice that Dr. Parsons has not confined himself to copying any model; but while all the tables necessary for comparisons with other reports are given, he has introduced other tables, and information obtained from private sources, which serve to increase the value of the report, and make it what should be its chief object, of practical value in promoting the best interests of the State.

Our Local Newspapers.

On this subject the "Brattleboro" Eagle holds the following sensible remarks:

"Occasionally we meet with a subscriber who complains of the amount of advertising in our columns, and with a friend who would become a subscriber but for that obstacle. Such men are unreasonable. They all seem unconscious of the fact that nineteen-twentieths of the newspapers in this country would be compelled to suspend at once, but for the advertising patronage they get. But say one—and the objection comes up just as if it had not been answered already a thousand times—

"I can get the same paper twice as large as yours, and without advertisements in its columns, at a less rate than you charge for yours."

Yes, sir, you can. But that paper prints advertisements, and you pay for them. But the matter is worked off perhaps in a dozen other papers with as many different names. Few of the mass of journals in the country enjoy such monopoly of advantages and it can only be commanded in large cities.

But when you get your mammoth sheet you do not have the local intelligence which relates to you personally; transpiring in your very midst, of moment to you and yours in every point of view!

Take the question with you and think of it. It is admitted on all hands that a free press is a safeguard to the country—that journal that conveys to us intelligence of events that spring in our very midst—there over which we have control—as well as those transpiring abroad, over which we have less control—is one that presents the strongest claim to your confidence. We hold it to be a duty of every good citizen to support his own town paper. If he can take more than one, he may, with propriety, go abroad for the second; but if he can't take but one the local paper should always have the preference. The advertisements contain matter that interests every class or community and every member of a family. The local paper should aim to furnish a fair compendium of both the local and general news of the day; and having done that it has established a claim upon the community in which it may be located.

The Joy of Locality.

Grace Greenwood, (Mrs. Lippincott,) in an address to mothers in the last number of The Little Pilgrim, thus writes: "Since I last addressed you another year has passed over us—a peaceful and fortunate year to most of you, I trust, yet doubtless bringing to the happiest hearts and homes something of change and sorrow. To me it has brought the most profound and sweet, the most solemn and sacred happiness of womanhood—for within this year I have been joined to the great and noble army of mothers." I am now one of you. Oh, if there is a time when woman may feel that she, like Mary of old, is "blessed among women," it is when she folds in her arms her first-born child—feels the touch of its tender little hands thrill on heart strings—feels when her cheek the first soft breathing of a life immortal—sees first dawn break in the misty depths of sleep little eyes a love that shall yet brighten the world for her. This joy unspeakable, this holy triumph of maternity, is Heaven's abundant compensation for all that is suffered by woman—for all that is denied to her. With existence renewed and freshened by the infusing of this pure life from the divine fountain of life—with my heart made more tender and loving by the sweet mysterious influences by which babyhood, mighty in helplessness, and without speech, most eloquent, comes to us—I feel like consecrating myself anew to the service of such as Jesus took in his arms and blessed—and of you, whom maternity makes kin to her once elected to the highest joy and deepest anguish of mortality—her whom he most loved and most tenderly remembered in his last hour."

Curious Facts of Natural History.

A single house fly produces in one season 20,000,000,000.

Some female spiders produce nearly 2,000 eggs.

Dr. Bright published a case of an egg producing an insect 80 years after it must have been laid.

About thirty fresh water springs have been discovered under the sea, on the south of the Persian Gulf.

A wasp's nest usually contains 15,000 cells.

The Atlantic ocean is estimated at three miles and the Pacific four miles deep.

There are six or seven generations of gnats in a summer, and each lays 250 eggs.

A swarm of bees contains from 10,000 to 20,000 in a natural state, and from 30,000 to 40,000 in a hive.

The bones of birds are hollow and filled with air instead of marrow.

A cow eats 100 lbs. of grass food and yield 5 quarts or 10 lbs. of milk.

Fish are common in the seas of Surinam with four eyes; two of them on horns which grow on the top of their heads.

Two thousand nine hundred silk worms produce one pound of silk; but it would require 27,000 spiders, all females to produce one pound of web.

Capt. Reaumur saw near Smyrna, in 1841, a cloud of locusts 46 miles long, and three hundred yards deep, containing as he calculated, 169 billions.

Leuwenhoek reckoned 17900 divisions in the (outer coat of the eye) of a butterfly, each one of which, he thought possessed a crystalline lens. Spiders etc., are similarly provided for.

The spring of a watch weighs 0.15 of a grain; a pound of iron makes 50,000—The pound of steel cost 24; a single spring 24; so that 50,000 produces £416.

With a view to collect their webs for silk, 4,000 spiders were once obtained, but they soon killed each other. Many accidents and wars never arise together.

Spiders have four pairs for spinning their threads, each pair, having 1000 holes; and the fine web itself the union of 4000 threads. No spider spins more than four webs, and when the fourth is destroyed they seize on the webs of others.

Every pound of cochineal contains 70,000 insects boiled to death, and from 600,000 to 700,000 lbs are annually brought to Europe for scarlet and crimson dyes.

A queen bee will lay 200 eggs daily for 50 or 60 days, and the eggs are hatched in three days. A single queen bee has been stated to produce 100,000 bees in a season.

The quantity of water discharged into the sea by the rivers in the world is estimated at 36 cubic miles in a day; hence it would take 35,000 years to create a circuit of the whole sea through clouds and rivers.

River water contains about 28 grains of solid matter to every cubic foot. Hence, such a river as the Rhine carries to the sea every day 145,980 cubic feet of sand or stone.

Mole-hills are curiously formed by an outer arch impervious to rain, and an internal platform with drains, and covered ways on which the pair and young reside. The moles live on worms and roots, and bury themselves in any soil in a few minutes.

Few insects live more than a year in their perfect state. Their first state is the egg, then the caterpillar, then the chrysalis or pupa, and finally the proreptic form. But in these changes there are infinite degrees and varieties of transition, all of which constitute the pleasing and very instructive study of Entomology.

Feeding to Death.

That to be frozen to death must be frightful torture, many would consider certain from their own experience of the effects of cold. But here we fall into the usual error of supposing that the suffering will increase with the energy of the agent, which could only be the case if sensibility remained the same. Intense cold brings on speedy sleep, which fascinates the senses, and fairly beguiles men out of their lives.

The most curious example of the seductive powers of cold is to be found in the adventures of the botanical party, who, in Cook's first voyage, were caught in a snow storm on Terra del Fuego. Dr. Solander, by birth a Sardinian, and well acquainted with the destructive effects of a rigorous climate, admonished the company, in defiance of lassitude, to keep moving on.

"Whoever," said he, "sits down will sleep—and whoever sleeps will perish." The doctor spoke like a sage, but felt as a man. In spite of the remonstrances of those whom he had instructed and alarmed, he was the first to lie down and die.

The same was repeated a thousand times in the retreat from Moscow. Alton, the historian, to try the experiment, sat down in his garden at night, when the thermometer had fallen four degrees below zero, and so quickly did the drowsiness come stealing on, that he wondered how a soul of Napoleon's unhappy band had been able to resist the treacherous influence.

London Quarterly.

Historical.

MEMOIR OF RHODE ISLAND. 1676.

town of Newport and Portsmouth (who had engaged with all their strength in the cause) R. Island could sustain the expense of such an appeal to England, perhaps at that time, better than Connecticut. Besides both parties were conscious that the King was more inclined to favor R. Island than the other party.

An epidemic prevailed on the Island which we find mentioned in the journal of a travelling Quaker preacher (William Edmondson) as follows.

"Whilst I staid at R. Island the heat of the Indian war abated, for King Philip, the chief in that war of the Indians was killed and his party destroyed, and subdued; presently a sickness came which proved mortal, and took many away; few families on the Island, but lost some, in two or three days sickness. My friends died, yet I constantly visited sick families of friends, although the smell of the sickness was loathsome, and many times I would feel all the parts of my body, as it were, laden with it, so that I would say to sick families it was much I did not carry it away as I was so laden therewith. After some time it seized on me with such violence, that I was forced to keep my bed, at Walter Newberry's at Newport.

Death of Mr. John Clarke.

Mr. John Clarke died April 29, 1676, and was buried agreeably to his request, between the bodies of his two wives, in a small burying place on the west side of Tanner street, in Newport, where all three of the grave stones are now in good preservation; one mound of earth being raised over the whole. To this man the colony of Rhode Island was, in our opinion, indebted in a greater degree, than to any other of her founders. He was the original proprietor of the settlement on the island, and one of its first and ablest civilians. Some others broke the ice with a more daring responsibility, he followed, methodised, and wrought the more rude materials into form and order. To him the colony was almost wholly indebted for the extension of her territory, on the east and west side of the bay; both of which were procured by his address and perseverance as her agent in England, during an absence of twelve years from home, spent in her service with indefatigable labor he procured our present charter, and had the influence to engrave in it, the first principles of religious freedom. In reducing the government to order, Mr. Clarke was much relied on, and held the first rank in Legislative intelligence. He was to the rude and hithermost materials, among which his lot was cast, what the pendulum is to the time-piece. Although he had adopted the Baptist faith and practice, we never find him engaged in angry controversy with those of a different persuasion but on the contrary, endeavoring to practice and establish, what he professed—toleration for all.

Such was the uniform tenor of this good man's life, that history affords no evidence that he had an enemy.

The following particulars respecting Mr. Clarke, are extracted from B. Clark's history of the Baptists in New England.

"He was born October 8, 1609; married Elizabeth, daughter of John Hargreaves, Esq. of Bedfordshire. In power of attorney signed by them May 12th, 1656, he styles himself John Clarke, Physician of London. It was for the recovery of a legacy of £20 per annum during her life, that was given her by her father out of the manor of Wrestlingworth Bedfordshire. Where he had his education I know not; but the following clause in his will may give some idea of his learning, viz. 'Item, unto my loving friend Richard Bailey, I give and bequeath, my concordance and lexicon to it belonging, written by myself, being the fruit of several years study; my Hebrew bibles, Baxter's and Passor's lexicon, Cotton's concordance, and all the rest of my books.' His first wife died at Newport without issue, and Feb. 1st, 1671, he married Mrs. Jane Fletcher, by whom, Feb. 14, 1672, he had a daughter born; but the mother died the 19th of April following and the daughter May 18, 1683. His third wife was the widow Sarah Davis, who survived him, he gave some legacies both to her and to the children she had by her former husband. Mr. Bailey came from London with him in 1664."

"At the Assembly of April 2, 1672, an account was exhibited, examined, approved and attested by Gov. Arnold and three assistants, which is now extant under their own hands, wherein it appears that when Mr. Clarke obtained said charter, he had received but £221 3s though the charter with his time and pains cost £651 17s 12d and £100 of which was then due to him, and was ordered to be paid in provision pay, two pounds for one, but he never received any of it in his life time. By the papers I find that he mortgaged his estate in Newport, to Capt. Richard Deane, of London, the same as he had procured the charter, and that it was not taken up till Sept.

VOLUME XVI.

The Newport Mercury.
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY
R. COUGHEN & F. A. PRATT.
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PES.—Two Dollars per annum, or \$1.75 if sent in advance.
ADVERTISEMENTS inserted at the Lowest Rate. Delusion made to those who advertise by other means.
No paper discontinued (unless at the option of the Proprietors) until arrangements are paid.

Poetry.

THE SNOW-FALL.

It cometh down, it cometh down,
A messenger from Heaven;
For as the robins those spirits wear
Whose sins have been forgiven,
How beautiful the falling flakes
Within the sunbeam glow,
As o'er the glittering earth
A glistening veil it throws.
It girdles round the mansion
Where the rich man's feast is spread,
And hatches up the log hut
Where the poor man breaketh bread.
It hatches up the flying sleigh
With its load of fair and brave,
And smooths the rugged outline
Of the stranger's lonely grave.
It cometh down, it cometh down,
In many a glittering flake;
In caping glee and shelter'd vale
It dwelling it doth make.
On the leafy pine it hatches
Till the noble tree bows down;
And it places on the mountain head
A glorious glittering crown.
And where the grand old forest
Lies its numerous arms bare,
It smooths its loneliness
And slumbers softly there.
Enfolding in its pure embrace
Each bare and leafless bough;
Till, like a wood of purest pearl,
It hatches a beautiful snow.
But it dwells, oh! it dwells,
In the "wildered hunter's" face,
Till all wearied and soothed
In its deadly sleep it comes.
And the sleep of death comes o'er him,
Like a pale and dreamy cloud,
As the freezing snow flakes told him
In their bright and seamless shroud.
Still it comes, oh! it comes,
Down from the Lord above,
As a type of His sweet mercy,
As an emblem of His love.
O that wedding garment beautiful
Dish it speak to men below,
Which clothes the soul in that bright land
Where shall be no more snow.

I DREAM OF HOME.

BY HANNAH M. DIX.

I only see through blinding tears
The will vines round the door-way clinging,
And ever in my weary ears
The wild-birds' songs are ringing.
In the still watches of the night
Soft sleep to my sealed eyes disclosed,
The Eden of my young delight
Embowered amid its roses.
Once more in the old home I stand
And see their dear familiar faces,
The pressure on my mother's hand,
I feel her warm embrace.
Beside the softly flowing rill
I see my little brothers playing,
And o'er the green and sloping hill
My sweet-voiced sisters straying.
With those dear loved ones, hand in hand,
I wander through the mountain passes,
Or passing, twine with careless hand
A wreath of flowers and grasses.
I muse beside the flowing rill,
Upon its violet banks reclining,
Or climb, at twilight's hush, the hill
To watch the sun's declining.
Beside my vine-clad casement set
I touch the harp with stifled fingers,
Or watch the western hills where yet
The falling sun-light lingers.
The red-robin hush, the tranquil lake
I see in sunset moonlight sleeping,
The vision fades—I wake
To pass the night in weeping.

From the German of Owen.

SHELL AND KERNEL.

BY CHARLES T. BROOKS.

A tavern, small and light of build,
A withered wreath for sign;
Within, a matchless cellar filled
With cool and golden wine.
A window full of broken pots—
With blooming roses crowned;
Within, grave faces with happy thoughts
The table sitting round.
A little church, half gone to dust,
The gate-way choked and low;
Within, devotion, hope and trust,
And music's heavenly flow.
A cradle-bed, with horse-lame,
And dragging through the sand
A palsy-couch, and in the same
The latest maid in the land.
A naked, lowly, rocky tale—
Within, fresh mountains, capping;
Old ruins, desolate and pale—
Within green ivy creeping.
Aye, look at me, the traveler here,
Whose wind and sunbeams turned,
My cup and cost this many a year
All gray with dust and sun.
Yet in my breast spring blossoms blow,
And wake life's morning hours,
With blue of heaven, fresh, green, and glow
Of music and of flowers.
Kernel and shell are two things, then—
This truth has travel taught;
Cook never travel, gentlemen,
If you believe it not.

CHARLES DAVENS, *P. resident.*
WILLIAM RIDER, *Treasurer.*
GEORGE VAUGHAN, *Secretary.*

Sixteen persons of the age of seventy years and upward, died in Bristol the past year. Average age

Owing to the irregularity of the Sound boats, we have received no New York mail since Wednesday morning, but by the kindness of E. J. T. LAY, Esq., we have received papers of one day late.

Little's Living Age, for the week, has drawn largely from Chamber's Journal, a work comparatively little known in this community, but one of the best of its kind as published.

work, one object of which is stated to be to "put down low necked dresses." Many folks think them too low, now.

grouped in the centre,

...ing about one physician and one sur-
on to every 6000 inhabitants, and one
othecary for every 12,000.

rs containing money amounting in the
egate to \$11,275. Of this sum seven
this has been restored to its owners.

SENATE.—The House bill for the payment of invalid and other pensions were passed.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the Iowa election case, but no action was taken.

On motion of Mr. Bell, of New Hampshire, a resolution was adopted requesting the President if, in his opinion, it is not inconsistent with the public interests, to communicate to the Senate such information as may be in his power in the Department of State relative to the Caribbean Sea, of the Venezuelan government with American citizens who are rightfully in occupancy at the said islands, as they believed, and were engaged in collecting guano therefrom, the said government having forcibly expelled the said American citizens from the islands, and also to communicate what measures have been taken, if any, by the government of the United States to obtain redress from the government of Venezuela.

Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE.—The House was engaged on the private calendar, and passed twenty-one private bills.

An adjournment was being effected, when Mr. Kelsey introduced a subject which caused much excitement. He presented it as a question of privilege, first asking to be read at the Clerk's table an article from the New York Times, of the 6th inst., which, charging members of Congress and lobby agents with gross corruption; mentioning the Minnesota Land bill in this connection, and saying that evidence can be produced to carry conviction to every honest heart, and that the animals would be driven from the high places they have dishonored. Mr. Kelsey remarked that the charge contained in this article appeared to have been based on a paper from this city to the Times. Under ordinary circumstances it would be a waste of time to notice articles of this character appearing in the newspapers; but the editor of the Times occupied a position before the country which entitled his sentiments to credit. If he is in possession of the facts he thereon charges, he should substantiate them before a committee of this House, that members who may be guilty of such conduct should be known to the country. As the case now stands he (Kelsey) could neither vote for nor against a proposition without bringing himself directly under the charges in that article. Here he exists such a combination as is alleged he wanted to know it, and have the facts before the people. He concluded by offering the following:

Whereas, certain statements have been published charging the members of this House with entering into a corrupt combination for the purpose of passing and of preventing the passage of certain measures now before Congress, therefore

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed by the Speaker, with power to send for persons and papers, to investigate said charges, and that the committee report the evidence to be taken, and what action in their judgment is necessary on the part of the House, without unnecessary delay.

Mr. Payne—I say distinctly there is not a want of truth in the allegation contained in the Times' article. A distinct proposition was made to me by a member of this House, in regard to the Minnesota Land bill, and about \$1500 would be given in consideration of a vote for that bill. If the proposed committee shall be raised and I am called on as a witness, I shall give my opinion.

After some further debate the resolution was adopted. Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Jan. 10.

HOUSE.—The Speaker announced that the select committee to investigate the alleged corruption of Messrs. Kelsey, Orr, Davis, of Maryland, Ritchie and Warner.

The bill authorizing payment to the volunteer Garret, of Mass., of the amount of fishing bounties they would have been entitled to receive had the voyage been completed, gave rise to a long debate involving the propriety of such bounties, when the bill passed by a vote of 80 against 70. Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 12.

SENATE.—The Senate adopted the resolution reported by the Committee on the Judiciary, declaring Mr. Harlan as not entitled to a seat as Senator.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Stanton, under a suspension of the rules, offered a resolution instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire into the expediency of reorganizing the Circuit and District Courts of the United States in such manner as to equalize the population and business of the several circuits and districts, and to give to all sections of the confederacy their equal and just representation in the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Stanton showed the inequality now existing, and urged the importance of such reform on the ground that all sections should have a just and fair judicial representation.

The resolution was passed.

Mr. Benson reported back the Senate bill amendatory of the act to promote the efficiency of the navy, which provides for the restoration of such dropped, furloughed or retired officers as may be favorably reported on through courts martial, the findings being approved by the President.

The bill was passed without amendment by a vote of 159 against 53.

Mr. Orr, from the select committee to inquire into the alleged corrupt combination of members, reported a resolution enlarging the field of their inquiry from the commencement of the present Congress, instead of confining them to measures now pending, and asking to be empowered to employ a clerk. The resolution was adopted. Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.

SENATE.—There was a long debate in the Senate on the House bill for the relief of Mary Reese, proposing to pay her one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, being a balance due from the Government to her late husband for his services in carrying the mails, with interest from December, 1841. The case has been before Congress for twelve or fifteen years, and was favorably reported on by the Court of Claims. The bill passed by a vote of 28 against 15, after an amendment striking out the "allowance for interest."

Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Morgan offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Commerce to enquire and report what additional means, if any, are necessary to prevent loss of life and property from shipwreck on the Long Island and New Jersey coasts.

The House resumed consideration of the President's Message.

The message was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Adjourned.

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

New York, Jan. 13.—Steamer George Law arrived this morning from Aspinwall, bringing California dates of Dec. 29. She brings upwards of \$1,250,000 in specie.

The George Law connected at the 14th-mine with the Santa Fe.

The United States ships Independence and St. Marys were lying at Panama, and the Cyane at Aspinwall. At Aspinwall, the Sierra Nevada left on the 20th for San Juan, with a large number of recruits for Walker. An attempt was made a few days previous to sink her at her dock.

The Orizaba, from San Juan, arrived on the 19th.

The Supreme Court of California has declared the entire State Debt unconstitutional, excepting \$300,000, and recommends the adoption of the debt by the Legislature, and that the question of repudiation be submitted to the people. No transfer of stock has been made since the decision.

The people are opposed to repudiation, and meetings have been called in various parts of the State, to give expression to the public opinion. At a meeting held in San Francisco, resolutions were passed, pledging the redemption of the debt by the people. The amount is over \$3,000,000.

The Court has also decided that a million and a half scrip issued by the old corporation for street assessments, was illegal.

The Court has also decided a suit brought by a purchaser of city ship property for the recovery of money paid to the city, the sale having since been declared illegal. The decision is that, although the sale was illegal, and therefore the title reverts to the city, yet the purchase money must be recovered from the land commissioners who made the illegal sale. The amount in dispute is \$1,200,000.

The Court also decided that the city is not liable for the \$375,000 for a lot purchased for County buildings.

The Court sanctions the seizure of the Fremont Mariposa Grant for taxes, and the estate will be sold unless the taxes are paid.

The mining news is favorable. Markets are dull. There have been large arrivals of goods during the fortnight, nearly the whole of which was stored for lack of demand.

At San Francisco, Jose Y. Simanor has been arrested for an attempt to defraud the U. S. of lands in that city by means of forged papers and perjury.

CITY COUNCIL.

NEWARK, Jan. 13, 1857.

Board of Aldermen.—Present, His Honor the Mayor, Mr. Aldermen Buman, Stevens, Almira, Peckover and Weaver.

Report of Street Commissioner, received and referred to Finance Committee.

Finance Report No. 13, recommending bills amounting to \$11,350 to be paid from the City Treasury, granted.

Resolved, That all Aldermen and Wardens be authorized to divide the city into wards and districts, and to elect a committee to investigate and report thereon at the close of the year.

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New Bedford Oil Market.

SEVEN continues in good demand for home use, the transaction for the week include sales of 2770 bbls of pure oil at 19¢ per gallon—the market being with a disposition to further advance at close.

WHALE.—The market for Whale Oil is dull, and the only transaction we have to report is a sale of 100 bbls at a price not transacted.

WHEAT.—The market for Wheat is dull, and the only transaction we have to report is a sale of 100 bbls at a price not transacted.

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Pigeons in Texas.

The Palestine Advertiser describes a recent visit made by the editor to a pigeon's roost, on Wolf Creek, some twenty or thirty miles above Palestine. The company arrived at the roost before night, and when the pigeons were absent. They were struck with astonishment at the havoc the pigeons had made. On all sides, large trees were either broken or twisted down, and the trunks of the towering oaks literally stripped of their branches. About sundown they heard a low roaring to the North, and looking up they saw the front of a large column of birds approaching, and for several minutes it continued to pour along in one unbroken stream. Directly, others came from every direction, until the whole air appeared to be full of them. The company commenced operations after dark, shooting them by torch light, bringing down fifteen or twenty at a shot, until they had bagged as many as they desired, and then started for home.

For Sale at Public Auction.

On Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1857, at 11 o'clock, if fair, if not the next full day thereafter.

THE RESIDENCE of the late Edmund Barker, of Portsmouth, deceased, situated in Portsmouth, about two miles from Bristol Ferry, on the Turnpike and cross-road leading to Newbury, containing between four and five acres of good land, with a large barn, and other out-buildings nearly new and in good order, with a well of excellent water, and a variety of fruit trees, &c.

Also, immediately adjacent, will be sold about seven or eight acres of good land, being part of the residence of the late Ch. L. Parker, deceased. The land is bounded easterly on the West Road. Conditions at the time and place of sale.

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Miscellaneous.

JUST RECEIVED.

AT THE CITY MUSIC STORE, a very large, choice, fresh selection of Violin, Violoncello, and Piano Music, &c.

THE NEW JERSEY FERTILIZER COMPANY, is now prepared to receive orders for this important manure. For all lands upon which are sown the seed, it is more than a substitute.

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Miscellaneous.

GREEN SAND MARL OF NEW JERSEY.

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